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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [PINR](#) [RS](#) [MD](#)
SUBJECT: VORONIN AND LUPU TO MOSCOW YET ONCE
AGAIN

Classified by: Ambassador Asif J. Chaudhry for
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (S) In a November 16 meeting with Ambassador, Foreign Minister Iurie Leanca said that he had learned that Russian President Medvedev had invited both ex-President Vladimir Voronin and Presidential candidate Marian Lupu to Moscow "within the next three days" in order to try to persuade the Party of Communists (PCRM) to vote for Lupu. According to Leanca, the Russians would discuss with Lupu the question of what guarantees he could offer Voronin. The Russians intended to offer Voronin a senior CIS position, particularly Lebedev's job as Executive Secretary of the CIS, as a way to guarantee Voronin's immunity while providing for his international visibility.

¶2. (S) Leanca said that both he and Prime Minister Filat were upset and concerned about why the Russians were putting so much effort into trying to get Lupu elected as President. They wondered what Lupu would give the Russians in return, and expressed concerns that just when Moldova was finally formulating an independent foreign policy, the Russians might gain influence through Lupu.

¶3. (S) Leanca acknowledged that it would not be a problem if Voronin left Moldova for this CIS job, or if his son Oleg Voronin got immunity from prosecution, but Leanca said that Lupu should have discussed these issues with his Alliance partners first before agreeing to go to Moscow. Leanca felt that Lupu's failure to confide in his partners in advance revealed problems in the Alliance, causing Filat to worry that if Lupu became President he (Lupu) would have no incentive to keep Filat on as Prime Minister, and might dump him to form a left-center coalition with the Communists.

¶4. (S) Leanca repeated that he and Filat remained concerned about what the Russians would want in return for their support for Lupu for President. They wondered whether a President so openly supported by Moscow would really put Moldovan interests first.

CHAUDHRY